



John Muir Correspondence (PDFs)

1877-11-12

Letter from J[ohn] Strentzel to [John Muir], 1877 Nov 12.

John Strentzel

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668 that enjoyment with the
comfort of a glowing fire & cozy
seats, free from the unpleasantness
of hornet stings and winter
gales. Again accept my thanks.

Yours truly

J Stenzel

00762

Athens 11/12/77

Dear Friend

I have been
anxiously awaiting from you
some sign of life, having felt
uneasy in my conscience for
letting you go up the devil's
mountain for a frosty night,
without sufficient prepara-
tion to keep your body in
commensurate caloric condition.

I believe myself in some-
thing like headstrong impulse
to override obstacles, but
the most glorious sunset

can hardly be effective to warm up the icy breath of Pau-tuk-keewis at the midnight hour insinuating up our overalls at the rate of 30 miles per hour.

I am not surprised to hear that the good people below the Summit were struck with mute astonishment at seeing you come to breakfast from the wrong direction and so in doubt as to your relation with old Diablos, displayed their catology as a delicate intimation that their felicity would be assured if you took a hint & seated.

In these times of social commotion & rampant Communism, few people will entertain angels unawares, and I would suggest to all mountain stalkers to be provided with Photography of plant & life as vividly to of "themselves", for use introductory to the good will of their Entertainers.

In Spite of the wishes of the community to the contrary, the weather continues so bright & sunny, offering unusual facilities for extending your studies of the Devil's Own & of the adjoining ranges; & in such contingency I hope you will certainly remember Alhambra for resting wearied nature.

Mrs. Stenzel has just read aloud your description of the Giants of the Sierra, which fills us with contrition over our neglect or inability of visiting them in their highland home. For my part I bless the venturesome spirit who by contact with them is enabled to present in matchless word, painting those hoary Giants my mind as if a willow wand waved before my eyes, and presents